

GENERAL NOTES

This report presents data on the characteristics of men and women who received a bachelor's or master's degree in a science or engineering field from U.S. academic institutions during the 1996–97 (1997) and 1997–98 (1998) academic years. The data were collected in 1999 and 2000 and reflect the status of individuals as of April 1999. In addition to the demographic characteristics of recent college graduates with science and engineering (S&E) degrees, the data may be used to understand the employment experiences of recent S&E graduates, such as the extent to which recent graduates entered the labor force, whether they were able to find employment, and the attributes of that employment.

Results of this survey are presented separately for bachelor's and master's degree recipients; complementary tables for the two degree levels are found on facing pages throughout the report.

This report contains three sections. The technical notes in section A contain information on survey

methodology, coverage, concepts, definitions, and sampling errors. Detailed tabulations from the survey are presented in section B. Within section B, tables are grouped by topics, such as demographic characteristics, employment characteristics, and so on. Although data were collected using both computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and mail questionnaires, we have only included a copy of the mail questionnaire in section C.

The Division of Science Resources Statistics also produces reports that present data on degree completions in science and engineering. The data presented in this report measure the number of individuals with recently acquired science and engineering degrees and do not necessarily coincide with the data on degree completions whose source is the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The IPEDS completions data file represents a count of degrees awarded, whereas the NSRCG represents graduates (persons). For additional information on IPEDS see “Comparison with IPEDS Data” in section A.